(c) whether the Commission has pointed out that the victims witnpermanent diseases required identification, care and rehabilitation;

(d) if so, what are the other points made in the report;

(e) whether IMCB has recommended a number of measures to be taken up for those who were victims of the Bhopal Gas tragedy; and

(f) whether the finding of IMCB reveated that several survivors of the tragedy have suffered long-term damage to their brains, apart from undergoing neurotoxic changes and many have lost memory and nerve coordination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Government have not received any report from the commission.

Checking the rise in bulk drug prices

3020. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Chemicals has decided to halt price escalations based on input prices of a bulk drug beyond the statutory three years lock-in period;

(b) if so, what are the norms set out to check rise in bulk drug prices;

(c) whether in a meeting between BICP and Department of Chemicals and patrochemicals, a decision was taken to initiate the review exercise, six months before the expiry of three years lock-in period, for which a revision is valid;

(d) whether procedural delays on the part of the BICP and prices to formulate fresh norms will also be cut drovn; and

(e) if so, to what extent a time table set for price review has helped in checkmg the rise of bulk drug prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) BICP has been asked to complete all the pending cost-cum-technical studies of indigenously produced scheduled bulk drugs under DPCO, 1987.

Joint ventures with Gulf countries for setting up Fertilizer Plant

3021. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
DR. SANJAYA SINH:
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MOHD KHALEELUR RAHMAN:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1273 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 1994 and state:

(a) what are the details about the Indian corporations venturing for joint collaboration, size of the plants and their projected production estimates;

(b) what are the reasons for joint ventures in Gulf countries;

(c) whether these corporations would be raising capital resources in Gulf countries and at what interest rates and

(d) whether these joint ventures will overcome the shortage of fertilizers in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Limited availability of suitable raw materials in India for the manufacture of fertilizers is the main reason for Indian companies looking for opportunities for joint ventures abroad where raw material availability is easy.

M/s. Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd. (SPIC) are presently setting up a joint venture phosphatic fertilizer project in Jordan in collaboration with Jordan Phosphate Mines Company Ltd., for production of about 2 lakh tonnes of phosphoric acid.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Government of India ond Oman was signed in June, 1993 for expediting necessary steps for promoting a joint venture nitrogenous fertiliser project in Oman based on natural gas. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF) and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) have been designated as Indian Companies for the proposed project.

In furtherance of a basic Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Governments of India and Iran in July, 1993, a Memorandum of Undertanding has been signed between the two sides in Iran on 6-3-94, envisaging setting up of a joint venture nitrogeous fertilizer project based on gas in Oeshm island of Iran. IFFCO and KRIBHCO, the two fertilizer undertakings in the cooperative sector, are proposed to be associated with this project. Both sides have agreed to conduct a prefeasibility study for the project and work out other details.

(d) The joint ventures with supplement the availability of fertilizers in the country.

Shortage of Fertilisers in Maharashtra

3022. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers in Maharashtra are facing an acute shortage of fertilisers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure availability of fertilisers; and

(d) what is the total demand for fertilisers in Maharashtra and what is the supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The availability of fertilisers, particularly controlled fertilisers, is monitored by the Government of India in coordination with the fertiliser manufacturers, handling agents and State Governments. Measures are taken to ensure adequate and timely supply of fertilisers in the different States of the country.

(d) Adequate availability of straight nitrogenous fertilisers, namely, Urea, Ammonium Sulphate, Ammonium Chloride and Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN), which are subject to control, is ensured by Government of India through allocations under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955.

As would be seen from the following table the availability of controlled fertilisers in the State of Maharashtra on 28-2-94 with reference to ECA allocations for Rabi 1993-94 has been quite comfortable.

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

Commodity	ECA Allocation duing Rabi 1993-94	Availability upto 28.2.94
Urea	507.98	487.40
Ammonium Sulphate	19.90	24.94
Ammonium Chloride	0.55	0.12
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate	20.00	16.42
TOTAL :	548.43	528.88